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Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 004900-148

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
Evelyne PRAT et al ) Group Art Unit: 1754  
Application No.: CPA of 08/765,901 ) Examiner: S. Hendrickson  
Filed: January 7, 1997 )  
For: CONCENTRATED SUSPENSION )  
PRECIPITATION SILICA, METHODS )  
OF PREPARATION AND UTILISATION )  
OF SAID SUSPENSION )

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JUL 15 1999  
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claim 39 as follows:

39. (Three times amended) A method for the preparation of an aqueous suspension of precipitated silica, having solids content of between 10 and 40% by weight, which viscosity is lower than  $4 \times 10^{-2}$  Pa.s at a shear rate of  $50 \text{ s}^{-1}$  and wherein the amount of silica present in the supernatant obtained after centrifuging the said suspension at 7500 revolutions per minute for 30 minutes represents more than 50 % of the weight of the silica present in the suspension, comprising the steps of :

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